(b) Government of India and RBI have advised the Banks and Financial Institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and the implementation of recovery policy by banks, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). Banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlements. RBI in July, 2000 had also introduced non-discretionary and non-discriminatory One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore.

Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the Banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts to viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Further, to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default and to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues, "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002" was promulgated, and its replacement Bill has been passed by the Parliament recently.

Dividends of PSUs

2698. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earned a dividend of over Rs. 18,800 crores from public sector undertakings this year;

(b) whether the dividends received are as expected or there has been some variations;

(c) in what manner this amount is proposed to be spent;

(d) whether any amount out of the dividends is earmarked for revival of sick public sector undertakings; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Dividend receipts from Public Sector Undertakings in the year 2002-2003 are estimated as Rs. 9455 crore. The amount received by

the Government on this account, upto October, 2002 is within the expected target.

(c) to (e) Dividend receipts form part of general revenues. These revenue receipts provide, along with capital receipts, the resources for expenditures incurred by the Government. In the current year, an amount of Rs. 13,389 crore is estimated to be invested by the Government in the Public Sector Undertakings and Railways as Plan investment and, additionally, an amount of Rs. 1510 crore is estimated to be given to the PSUs as non-Plan loans, including revival schemes of PSUs and Voluntary Retirement Scheme/Voluntary Separation Scheme from the General revenues.

Functioning of Insurance Schemes

2699. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vahanon ke third party insurance ke liye tarka rahi hain beema companiya" appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated 4th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for refusal by the Insurance Companies for renewal of third party insurance; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Premium rates for motor insurance are fixed by the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC), a Statutory Body established under the provisions of Insurance Act, 1938 and which functions under the direct charge of Chairman, Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA).The IRDA is reported to have received representations from various individuals and transporters regarding refusal of third party motor insurance by the Insurance Companies. The IRDA have since issued a Circular to all the General Insurance Companies not to refuse the motor third party insurance and to strictly follow the motor tariff approved by the TAC.